

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claim 4 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10 through 12, and add Claims 13 through 18 to read, as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of image forming means each including:

an image bearing member; and

developing means for developing an electrostatic image formed on the image bearing member by use of toner, the developing means being capable of collecting residual toner on the image bearing member; and

a transfer member provided to be able to contact the plurality of image bearing members, the transfer member being made of a resin material,

wherein the toner used in at least one of the plurality of developing means contains a toner particle group with a particle size of 12.7  $\mu\text{m}$  or more,

wherein a ratio of the toner particle group to the entire toner being 1.0% or less in a weight particle size ~~distribution~~. distribution.

wherein the transfer member is an intermediate transferring member onto which a toner image is transferred from each of the plurality of image bearing members, and

wherein the toner image on the intermediate transferring member is transferred onto a transfer material.

2. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the toner contains the toner particle group with a a ~~[[the]]~~ particle size of  $12.7\ \mu\text{m}$  or more, a ratio of the toner particle group to the entire toner being 0.8% or less in a ~~[[the]]~~ weight particle size distribution.

3. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the developing means is capable of performing a collecting operation for collecting the residual toner on the image bearing member simultaneously with a developing operation.

4. **(Canceled)**

5. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, ~~[[4,]]~~ further comprising transfer means for transferring the toner image onto the intermediate transferring member from each of the plurality of image bearing members.

6. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein provided that a time required for the intermediate transferring member to move from a certain transfer position to a next transfer position is represented as  $T$ , and a charge relaxation time required for a potential of the intermediate transferring member charged at a potential  $V$  to be reduced to  $V/e$  (where  $e$  ~~[[e]]~~ is a base of natural logarithm) is represented as  $\tau$ ,  $\tau \leq T$  is satisfied.

7. **(Original)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a transferring current supplied to the transfer means is 10  $\mu$ A or less.

8. **(Original)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a transferring current supplied to the transfer means is 8  $\mu$ A or less.

9. **(Original)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a cleaning member for cleaning the residual toner on the intermediate transferring member,

wherein a transferring current supplied to the transfer means is larger in a transfer position of one of the plurality of image forming means which first transfers the toner image onto the intermediate transferring member than in a transfer position of another of the plurality of image forming means.

10. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus comprising:  
a plurality of image forming means each including:  
an image bearing member; and  
developing means for developing an electrostatic image formed on the  
image bearing member by use of toner, the developing means being capable of collecting  
residual toner on the image bearing member; and  
a transfer member provided to be able to contact the plurality of image bearing  
members, the transfer member being made of a resin material.

wherein the toner used in at least one of the plurality of developing means contains a toner particle group with a particle size of 12.7  $\mu\text{m}$  or more,

wherein a ratio of the toner particle group to the entire toner being 1.0% or less in a weight particle size distribution, and according to claim 1,

wherein the toner image in a different color is formed in each of the plurality of image forming means.

11. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3 and 5 to 10, wherein the toner has a mean particle size of 5 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

12. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3 and 5 to 10, wherein the toner has a mean particle size of 6 to 9  $\mu\text{m}$ .

--13. **(New)** An image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image bearing member; and

developing means for developing an electrostatic image formed on the image bearing member by use of toner; and

a transfer member provided to be able to contact the image bearing member, the transfer member being made of a resin material,

wherein the toner used in the developing means contains a toner particle group with a particle size of 12.7  $\mu\text{m}$  or more,

wherein a ratio of the toner particle group to the entire toner being 1.0% or less in a weight particle size distribution,

wherein the transfer member is an intermediate transferring member onto which a toner image is transferred from the image bearing member, and

wherein the toner image on the intermediate transferring member is transferred onto a transfer material.

14. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the toner contains a toner particle group with a particle size of 12.7  $\mu\text{m}$  or more, and wherein a ratio of the toner particle group to the entire toner being 0.8% or less in the weight particle size distribution.

15. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein a transferring current supplied to the transfer means is 10  $\mu\text{A}$  or less.

16. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein a transferring current supplied to the transfer means is 8  $\mu\text{A}$  or less.

17. (New) An image forming apparatus according to any one of claims 13 to 16, wherein the toner has a mean particle size of 5 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

18. (New) An image forming apparatus according to any one of claims 13 to 16, wherein the toner has a mean particle size of 6 to 9  $\mu\text{m}$ .--